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THE KHMER PEOPLE WILL WIN

LON NOL and Sirik Matak's soldiers patrolled in Phnom Penh on March 18 with M. 16s on their shoulders: these US-made weapons were produced only after 1963, the year in which the Kingdom of Cambodia renounced American aid. In Saigon on the same day Nguyen Van Thieu informed newsmen of the coup d'état several hours before it took place. In Washington the Nixon administration hastened to grant recognition to the new regime in Phnom Penh. All this speaks volumes for the US hand in the putsch.

Since the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the American rulers had never brought themselves to recognize Cambodia's neutrality. Their arbitrary inclusion of this country into the "protection area" of the Seato was highly indicative of their desire to dominate the whole of South-East Asia. Washington's policy-makers could never accept the neutrality of Cambodia located between countries which are US military bases and new-type colonies. Hence their hatred for Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the undisputed architect of Cambodia's neutrality. Hence the series of attempted assassinations and plots directed against him and the constant threat posed by the Bangkok and Saigon regimes to Cambodia's territorial integrity. It is to be recalled that South Viet Nam's Thieu-Ky and Thailand's Thanom-Praphas have up to now refused to recognize the existing frontiers of Cambodia. On its part, the US Command in Saigon has reasserted time and again its right of "hot pursuit" into Khmer territory.

President Nixon has been prosecuting this imperialistic policy adapted to present circumstances. The war in Viet Nam is being "Vietnamized," i.e. prolonged with a new formula: US fire-power + native troops. The "special war" in Laos is being intensified and Secretary of State W. Rogers recently declared that he would not exclude the possibility of using US ground forces in Laos. US hold on Thailand has not been eased: this country, which is keeping a strong contingent of troops in South Viet Nam, remains the taking-off base for US air bombers and Thai mercenary troops against Laos, while in North-eastern Thailand terror raids are being mounted against insurgent patriots. It is no surprise that considerable efforts against Cambodia have been exerted by the Washington rulers to coordinate their strategy in this part of South-East Asia. There lies the origin of the Phnom Penh coup d'état which was not only an attempt against Cambodia's independence and neutrality, but also a stab in the back of Viet Nam's Resistance.

The move was carefully performed and the absence from Phnom Penh of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk was fully taken advantage of; a "the Fatherland is in danger" proclamation was issued by the coup-makers on the pretence that Vietnamese troops had been intruding into Cambodia.

However, the CIA and the Cambodian pro-US extreme-rightist clique have made wild calculations.

The Khmers are a people with a remarkable history which has left such impressive vestiges as the world-famous Angkor ruins and a long tradition of anti-colonialist struggle. Since the signing of the Geneva Agreements, the Cambodian nation, under Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's leadership, had been following the path of independence and an unswerving policy of peace and neutrality. Surrounded by hostile regimes controlled by Washington, Cambodia nevertheless courageously resisted all pressures—political, economic and military—from these and from their Yankee masters. Taking as motto "Cambodia helps herself," she has achieved progress she can be rightly proud of.

In challenging this heroic people — who are so jealous of their independence — the March 18 coup-makers and their Washington bosses only set fire to a powder-keg. An appeal was launched by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk to all Khmers to unite into a National United Front and to join the National Liberation Army in order to wage an armed struggle and liberate Cambodia from the yoke of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique. It will certainly elicit an enthusiastic response from Khmers of all political tendencies who, in the existing circumstances, will not fail to strengthen their unity to attain their common goal — the safeguarding of national independence.

The Nixon administration thought it could, through the March 18 coup d'état, implement its Asian doctrine, which means to pit the Khmers against the Vietnamese and make good its setbacks in South Viet Nam and in Laos. But not only did it rouse the Khmer people against Washington, but it moreover helped strengthen the fighting solidarity between the Indochinese peoples. A feature of the sensible policy pursued by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to the benefit of his country has been to tighten the bonds of friendship between the peoples of Indochina. The Conference of Indochinese Peoples held five years ago in Phnom Penh and whose anniversary we just observed provided a clear proof of this. In his March 23 proclamation the Cambodian Head of State once again stressed the necessity to "fight against the American imperialists who are committing aggression against our Indochina and oppressing her peoples, and are fomenting (...) hostility and disunity among them."

The Lao people, through the voice of Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Lao Patriotic Front, have declared complete solidarity with the Khmer people.

The DRVN Government statement on March 25 faithfully reflects the strong feeling of the Vietnamese people against the coup in Cambodia: "Proceeding from the principle that the Liberation of Cambodia is the work of the Khmer people, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam declares its total support for the five-point proclamation of March 23, 1970 of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, firm support for the struggle waged by the Khmer people under the leadership of their Head of State Norodom Sihanouk against the US imperialists and their henchmen, for the defence of their sacred national rights. In the spirit of mutual respect, solidarity and mutual assistance, the Vietnamese people will wholeheartedly support the legitimate effort of the Khmer people until its final victory."

DRVN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE'S PRESENT PATRIOTIC STRUGGLE

FOR many years now, the Khmer people, in order to safeguard their sacred national rights, have been following the path charted by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk: national independence, peace, neutrality and territorial integrity within her present borders, solidarity between the Indochinese peoples who are all fighting the common enemy – the US imperialists and their henchmen – contributing to the safeguarding of peace in Asia and the world.

Along with their aggression against Viet Nam and intervention in Laos, the US imperialists have stepped at no manoeuvre, however vile and wicked, against the sound policy of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. In spite of the encirclement and threats of the US imperialists and their henchmen, the Khmer people have put up a tenacious and courageous struggle and foiled all sinister plans of the latter to build a system of military bases stretching from South Viet Nam to Thailand passing through Cambodia and Laos. As a result, the Kingdom of Cambodia has been able to preserve her independence, freedom, peace, neutrality and prosperity, and her prestige has been constantly on the increase in the international arena.

Since President Nixon took office, the US has been making every effort to implement "Vietnamisation of the war" in an attempt to prolong the war in South Viet Nam, escalating the war in Laos, and at the same time intensifying its intervention in Cambodia, to improve its losing position in South Viet Nam. The Lon Nol – Sirik Matak group, henchmen of the US, has staged a coup d'etat which was a hostile act directed against the Cambodian people and the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese people and is endeavouring to whip up an anti-Vietnamese psychosis and help the US scheme to intensify and expand war in Indochina, turn Cambodia into a military base and new-type colony of the US, in furtherance of the wicked design of President Nixon of using Asians to fight Asians. The coup-makers' group in Cambodia has thus betrayed the supreme interests of the Khmer people, opposed the correct policy of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, sabotaged the intimate friendship and militant solidarity between the Khmer people, the Vietnamese people and the Lao people, thereby seriously threatening peace and security in this area.

The Khmer people of all walks of life and political tendencies have expressed deep indignation at the coup d'etat of the reactionaries in Cambodia, henchmen of the imperialists. On March 23, in a formal declaration, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, in his capacity as legal Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, declared the dissolution of the government of General Lon Nol, the National Assembly and the Royal Council for high treason. Samdech has voiced his iron determination to defend the supreme and long-term interests of the Cambodian fatherland, and called on the Khmer people to unite into the National United Front

(Continued page 5)

In this issue:

⊙ **Developments in Cambodia** *Pages 4-5*

⊙ **Survey of U.S. Neo-Colonialism: II-ECONOMIC PROFILE** *Page 2*

⊙ ***Troubled Springs in the United States*** *Page 6*

⊙ **The Struggle Against "Pacification"** *Page 8*

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Survey of U.S. Neo-Colonialism :

II—Economic Profile

VO NHAN TRI

LIKE an octopus, US neo-colonialism spreads its tentacles to various fields — economic, military, political, ideological, cultural and espionage. Its main link in the chain of methods used is to capitalize on the economic and financial dependence of the "Third World" which still belongs to the world capitalist system.

In this article is to be found a brief description of the main economic levers of US neo-colonialism, viz. "foreign aid," overseas investment of private capital, commerce between the US and the "Third World" and a number of international financial organizations in which the US plays the leading role.

I. U.S. "AID" OR AID TO U.S. MONOPOLIES

As is known, "foreign aid" includes "military aid" and "economic aid." But as these two forms of "aid" are closely linked to one another and have the sole aim of "maintaining a position of US influence and control around the world" (1) it seems more judicious to take foreign aid as a whole and not separately as did some authors.

What are then the true objectives of US "aid"? According to its purpose or result, it boils down to the following points:

a) Serve US military and diplomatic interests;

b) Promote economic expansion of US monopolies;

c) Increase the economic and financial dependence of the "Third World" on the US;

d) Prevent developing countries from leaving the world capitalism's orbit and embarking on the path of non-capitalist development.

One after the other, US presidents, whether Republican or Democrat, regard unanimously "foreign aid" as a factor of paramount importance for US national security. By "national security," they mean in fact not only the defence of the national territory but also the mines and plantations in Latin America or South-East Asia, the huge oil-interests in the Middle East and the rich ore deposits in Africa. Consequently one can see that the US military machine tries to keep watch over not only the US national territory but also the tremendous riches scattered everywhere in the world.

J. Nelson, an American author, summed up the military goals of US "aid" as "continued access to military bases and other strategic facilities located in specific developing countries, maintaining ties with formal allies and strengthening their defense capacity." (2)

Added to this there is the dispatch of US military "advisors" and arms trade.

With regard to military "aid," it is worth noticing that US officialdom lays greater and greater stress on its contribution to the effort against the national liberation movement termed as "internal subversion." McNamarra, former Secretary of Defense, acknowledged for instance that "...the primary objective in Latin America is to aid, where necessary, in the continued development of indigenous military and paramilitary forces capable of providing, in conjunction with police and other security forces, the needed domestic security." (3)

US "aid" is also regarded as hush-money given to some countries of the "Third World" in exchange for the pro-US trend of their foreign policy and some votes at the UN or other international agencies.

Besides military and diplomatic objectives, US "aid" is economically aimed at promoting exports and paving the way for investment of capital and exploitation of raw materials of the "Third World."

One knows for instance that through the mechanism of "tied aid" US subsidies and loans are used by the recipient countries to buy American goods, frequently at exorbitant prices. In 1968 for instance, 98 per cent of the purchases of the Agency for International Development (AID) were made in the US, "the highest proportion ever." (4).

The stimulation of exports is furthermore closely linked to the attempt to ease the acuity of some internal problems, such as the agricultural crisis. From 1955 to 1966, the US government delivered to the countries of the "Third World" under "Public Law 480" and "Mutual Security" 17.2 billion dollars worth of surplus agricultural products (out of a total of 57.2 billion dollars) (5). Thus 30 per cent of exports of agricultural products were only made possible thanks to food "aid."

Moreover, US products sold within the framework of AID were rated at prices even acknowledged by the US as "considerably above world market prices." (6)

US "aid" is also used as a means to promote the export of US private capital. In his 1966 message to Congress, L.B. Johnson asked recipient countries to create a climate likely to attract foreign capital. Of late Nixon has just advocated the establishment of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) at the expense of American tax-payers. This government corporation would borrow money from the US government and lend it to US private firms willing to make investments in "aid"-recipient countries. However American private capital grudgingly turns to countries in the "Third World" which do not have an adequate economic and social infrastructure (communication lines, port installations, energetics, irrigation projects, vocational schools, etc.). The creation of such an infrastructure requires important investments which are not so paying at the outset. That is why the US government takes charge of them and a major part of its economic "aid" has been devoted to this end. Public investments thus blaze the trail for future US private investments, and it is safe to say that the interests of the US government and those of the monopolies complete each other "harmoniously."

What is essential in the "aid" program is the agreements guaranteeing US private investment, with regard to the convertibility of their profits and the nationalization and war risks. Such binding agreements are imposed by the US on most of the "aid"-recipient countries. It is lastly to be noted that "aid" enables the US to grab raw materials from the "Third World." One must recall here that by virtue of "Public Law 480," part of surplus agricultural products (13 per cent of deliveries) was shipped to recipient countries in exchange for rare strategic raw materials.

The U S Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs admitted that one of the reasons for granting "aid" to Africa is that it enables the US to take part in the "development of important mineral and other resources in Africa."

The third objective of US "aid" is to increase the economic and financial dependence of recipient countries. The means resorted to to this effect are many: participation of American officials in economic decision of recipient countries at nearly all levels; collusion between them and their pro US local counterparts (most of them trained in the US, under the AID program); dispatch of many American "advisors" and experts for development in beneficiary countries. Here mention should be made of a peculiar form of control resulting from food "aid." One is aware that surplus agricultural products supplied under "Public Law 480" are mostly paid in local currency. The government of the recipient country pays its debt into the "equivalent funds" belonging to the US government. Food "aid" leads thus to the accumulation of huge sums belonging to the US. This accumulated money is therefore, as can be seen, a formidable means of pressure in the hands of the US.

In conjunction with the World Bank and International Monetary Funds, AID sets in motion a network of economic control, direct or indirect, to squeeze the recipient countries.

With regard to financial dependence, public debt of countries of the "Third World" keeps swelling. Apart from the "client states," ordinary countries receive more interest-bearing loans than "grants" (which essentially serve military purposes) with the former increasing more and more in size. The result is that public debt of recipient countries, burdened by guaranteed export credits, is always on the increase. A growing part of new "aid" is reserved for payment of "aid." And when a recipient country meets with difficulties in payment, the US grants it moratoria which increase its subserviency to the US.

The last objective of US "aid" is to prevent countries in the "Third World" from embarking on the non-capitalist path. Despite temporary setbacks, nowadays the national liberation movement fundamentally tends towards non-capitalist development and socialism. Thus the US is eager to keep countries of the "Third World" in the orbit of world capitalism. It tries to graft capitalism into the Third World to make it the very base of US neo-colonialist domination

The Clay Commission's report is significant in this respect: to stimulate systematically private capitalist enterprise in recipient countries and make them the *raison d'être* of US "aid." Statements made by various US presidents, old and new, concur with it.

From what precedes, one can see on the whole that US "aid" profits less the recipient countries than US monopolies. To use "aid" as a means to interfere in the internal affairs of these countries and to lord it over them is one of the stock-in-trades of US foreign policy. Thus one can see the existence of a more and more widespread front of resistance to the "noose of the dollar," all the more so since there exists for the "Third World" another alternative, i.e. aid from socialist countries.

(To be continued)

(1) — J.F. Kennedy's statement quoted in *Some Important Issues in Foreign Aid*, Committee on Foreign Relations, US Senate, Washington, D.C., 1966, p. 15.

(2) — J. Nelson: *Aid, Influence and Foreign Policy*, New York, 1968, p. 11.

(3) — *Hearings on the Foreign Assistance Act of* 1967, Washington, D.C., 1967, pp. 116-117.

(4) — *Far-Eastern Economic Review*, Hongkong, No 27 (1969), p. 27.

(5) — 12 *Years of Achievement under Public Law* 480, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, Nov. 1967.

(6) — *Harvard Business Review*, January — February 1968, p. 63.

PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG Addresses Medical Conference

THE medical service recently met to review its work in 1969 and discuss its 1970 tasks. Premier Pham Van Dong visited and addressed the conference. He said:

"In their resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, the Vietnamese people have demonstrated their inflexible will and resolve to make every sacrifice for independence and freedom. Under the leadership of the Party and esteemed President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese people have achieved great successes and will certainly win total victory."

He said the task of the medical workers who attend to the health of the people in the new regime is a very glorious one.

"In recent years," Premier Pham Van Dong went on, *"under the leadership of the late Dr. Pham Ngoc Thach (late Minister of Public Health who laid down his life while on a resistance mission*—Ed.), *the medical service has recorded outstanding and praiseworthy achievements in the building of a medical network reaching down to every hamlet and village, in expanding prophylactic measures and mapping out judicious directives suited to the conditions of Viet Nam"*

Premier Pham Van Dong recommended the medical service to pay attention to scientific and technical researches both in medicine and in pharmacy, relying mainly on its own means and capabilities, to build a national, independent, sovereign, creative and original medicine of Viet Nam. He also called for the training of a contingent of medical workers both "red" and "expert" and strong in both quantity and quality.

Activities of Scientific and Technical State Committee

THE Scientific and Technical State Committee of the DRVN recently held a conference to review its work in 1969 and discuss the direction for activities in 1970.

The Conference noted a new advance of the State Committee in 1969: it focussed its efforts on the most burning problems raised by the needs of production, the people's life and national defence while preparing the groundwork for vigorous future development.

In co-ordination with various branches and services, the Committee has prepared a number of directions and guidelines for the development of science and technology in the country, as well as measures to promote the improvement and strengthening of the technical management at production and construction establishments. To contribute to the attainment of the targets set under the State plan, the Committee has studied, summed up and popularized many scientific and technical measures regarding the processing of food and foodstuffs, the preparation of green manure and fodder, experiences in the utilization of soil and the fight against erosion, as well as boosting the application of the heating technique in the local engineering industry with a view to better quality of products. With regard to surveys and prospections of resources in 1969, the Committee expanded the application of scientific knowledge and technical means to fruitful researches on a number of practical problems of scientific as well as economic significance. For instance, the Committee has achieved good results in the improvement of the public service network in Hanoi, checked and determined measures to restore industrial and communication projects, used electronic computors in meteorology and hydrology, for designing and planning, used spectrophotometry to analyze samples of materials to serve production, communication and scientific research. The Committee also stepped up investigation into animal resources in the coastal areas, subsoil deposits and the fauna and flora in certain areas, and began making researches on the tropicalization of equipment and stepped up standardization and measurement. Other fields of action such as scientific and technical activities in the localities, publication of scientific papers, library, scientific and technical information, etc. have also been vigorously extended to contribute more actively to production, research and teaching.

On the directions for scientific and technical work in 1970, the conference pointed out: in the period to come the technical revolution should be promoted in order to reach the goals set under the present economic rehabilitation and development plans, and at the same time preparations must be made in the matter of cadres, workers and material bases for future development of the economy.

Therefore, the main tasks in 1970 are to step up technical management, improve and strengthen uniform measurement and standardization, elaboration of various regulations in order to make technical management gradually become a stable institution in production, to strengthen scientific management (organize regular reviews of scientific and technical work in order to map out the correct policy and measures for reorganizing the system of research and experimental establishments, to work out regulations for the management of scientific equipment, management of scientific cadres, and promptly apply the results of researches and the advanced technical program to production plans). Also in this year the Committee will consider measures to train more scientific and technical workers in order to have in a relatively short period a contingent of cadres both "red" and "expert" for future development programs, and will step up research on a number of scientific and technical subjects of economic significance.

Consumer Production Up

SINCE early this year, a great many factories in North Viet Nam have made substantial progress.

The Viet Tri Ve-tsin factory (gourmet powder) has put out a high-quality product and ahead of schedule, many of its production teams having overfulfilled their January quota by from 35 to 45 per cent.

The Van Diem and Viet Tri sugarmills have also bettered their January quota by 60 per cent.

The Phu Tho tea factory produced three times over the figure of January 1969, that is 25 per cent above plan.

The Thang Long and Bac Son tobacco factories also surpassed their January norms by respectively 150.5 per cent and from 10 to 63 per cent.

Great importance has been paid by local industry to the use of sub-standard material for the making of common consumer goods. Thanh Hoa, Nam Ha, Hai Phong, Hanoi have thus turned out various educational articles (slates, penholders, school-bags, rulers, set-squares, etc.), household utensils (sheet-iron containers, tripods, stoves, pails, etc.) children's articles (toys, diapers, etc.). With odds and ends from clothing factories, Hanoi has managed to make a considerable quantity of various headgears, such as soft hats (133,000 pieces, 33 per cent more than in 1968). Hanoi and Haiphong have distinguished themselves in the production of articles in rubber, plastics, sheet-iron and tin.

On the whole, North Viet Nam's light industry is well on the path to one of the key objectives of the 1970 State plan: a notable increase in consumer goods.

97 NEW AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

THE Agricultural College No 1 has just graduated its 10th batch of 97 agricultural engineers: 23 of the agricultural electrification section, 22 of the agricultural mechanization section and 52 of the veterinary section.

In a workshop of Hanoi "March 8" textile mill

EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES
Between Premier Pham Van Dong and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk

To Samdech NORODOM SIHANOUK,
Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia

FOR many years the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia have been unceasingly strengthening their friendship and solidarity in the face of their common enemy, the US imperialists, in defence of their independence and freedom. This unshakable friendship and solidarity has been a factor of success for our two peoples and a contribution to the maintenance of peace in this part of the world.

The Vietnamese people are deeply grateful to Samdech and the Cambodian people for their generous support to Viet Nam's struggle against the US aggressors.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam reaffirms its determination to pursue invariably its policy of fraternal friendship and good neighbourliness with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence and the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina.

The recent developments in Cambodia have thrown a brighter than ever light on the soundness of the policy of peace and neutrality and of friendship and militant solidarity with the Vietnamese people which Samdech has been following. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam reiterates its firm support for this wise policy and expresses the conviction that this policy will stand all trials and continue to bear fruit for the sake of the prosperity of the Kingdom of Cambodia and for the benefit of the friendship between our two peoples .

I am glad to convey to Samdech the assurances of my most respectful and most fraternal consideration and my profound homage to Princess Monique Sihanouk.

Hanoi, March 19, 1970
PHAM VAN DONG

Peking, March 21, 1970

To His Excellency PHAM VAN DONG,
Prime Minister of the Government of
the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

Your Excellency,

I have been deeply moved and greatly comforted by the heartfelt and friendly words in your message of March 19, 1970, and by the exalted sentiments you reaffirmed in it for Cambodia and the Khmer people in the midst of the test it is undergoing, for which words and sentiments I thank you most sincerely.

The latest events in my country have, alas, darkened the sky of friendship which has always bound our two peoples.

Throughout these changes the supreme interest of Cambodia, like before, remains to be the maintenance and strengthening of this friendship with socialist Viet Nam and it is advisable to compose in the spirit of peace and mutual respect possible disputes or other problems that may arise between our two countries. It is because I have always held this view and continue to do so that I am today slung mud at and defamed by the traitorous Phnom Penh government and parliament under the wild accusation that I have betrayed my country and my people.

Meanwhile I remain confident of the future, because I know that the great majority of my fellow-countrymen share and will share my convictions and my line of action.

We may therefore hope that peace, friendship and solidarity between Cambodia and Viet Nam will soon be restored on the basis which has been time-tested, and in the spirit of mutual respect of each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity within the existing frontiers.

Please accept the assurances of my highest, most friendly and fraternal consideration.

NORODOM SIHANOUK

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's March 23 PROCLAMATION

(Excerpts)

I formally declare:

1 — In my capacity as legal Head of State of Cambodia, a supreme position unanimously granted me by the Khmer people, I irrevocably dissolve the Lon Nol government and the two chambers of parliament who have broken their constitutional oaths and violated the Constitution of the Kingdom.

2 — I call on all my fellow-countrymen and all the foreign nationals in Cambodia not to recognize and carry out the decrees (prakas, kret), laws (kram), orders, messages, circulars, judgements, all kinds of decisions, and verdicts which the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak - Cheng Heng group and their accomplices or servants have issued or are going to issue.

3 — A new National Union Government will be formed. A provisional Consultative Assembly will also be appointed (to assist the Government), whose members will be qualified representatives from all circles of the Khmer society (monks, peasants and farmers, workers and other labourers, merchants, industrialists, armymen, policemen, provincial guard, youth and intellectuals, functionaries, women, etc.)

4 — A National Liberation Army will be created.

5 — All Khmer people at home and abroad (the clergy and laymen, armymen and civilians, men and women)— who cherish the ideals of independence, democracy, neutrality, progress, socialism, Buddhism and nationalism, and stand for territorial integrity of the country within her existing frontiers, anti-imperialism and anti-neocolonialism — will unite into a united front under the official name "the National United Front of Kampuchea" (abbreviation : FUNK).

The essential tasks of the FUNK are:

One — Liberate our motherland from the dictatorship and oppression of the reactionary and pro-imperialist Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Cheng Heng clique.

Two — Fight against the American imperialists who are committing aggression against our Indochina and oppressing her peoples, and are fomenting injustice, war and all kinds of calamities, hosility and disunity, troubles, crises and misery among our three peoples — the Khmers, Vietnamese and Lao — and this struggle will be waged side by side with the socialist, progressive, anti-imperialist countries or peoples, far and near, with their complete support.

Three — Rebuild our country and make her advance as rapidly as possible along the road of progress following our victory over our enemies. This task of reconstruction is to be taken up by all of us, the Khmers, in comradeship, solidarity and complete unity as in times of grim fighting.

NFL AND PRG LEADERS' MESSAGE TO SAMDECH SIHANOUK

PRESIDENT Nguyen Huu Tho of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, and President Huynh Tan Phat of the RSVN PRG sent on March 20 a joint message to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia. Following is some excerpts of the message :

"At the present conjuncture when US imperialism and its lackeys are scheming to prolong the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, sabotage Samdech's wise policy of independence, peace and neutrality, and widen the war in Indochina, the consolidation of the friendship and solidarity between our two peoples proves more imperative than ever.

"In face of the manoeuvres of provocation and division by our common enemy, US imperialism, which is the source of the troubles and sufferings of our peoples, we are sure that animated with the spirit of mutual understanding and assistance, our two peoples will be able to foil those perfidious moves and bring to fruition the fraternal and ever-lasting friendship between Vietnamese and Khmers in mutual respect."

DRVN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

of Kampuchea, to strengthen their solidarity with the Vietnamese people, the Lao people and the other popular and anti-imperialist forces of the brotherly countries, to resolutely rise up in arms against the US imperialists and their henchmen.

With regard to the Kingdom of Cambodia, the unchanging policy of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has aiways been : maintenance and strengthening of the relations of brotherly friendship and good neighbourhood on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence and the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina ; strict respect for the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within her present borders, and non-interference by either side in the internal affairs of the other.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam affirms its unshakable support for the policy defined by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, a policy of independence, peace and neutrality for the Kingdom of Cambodia, solidarity and friendship with the other peoples in Indochina struggling against the US imperialist aggressors ; it considers this to be a clearsighted policy which ensures the national interests of the Khmer people and contributes effectively to the preservation of peace in Indochina and Asia. Facts have shown that for the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples, militant solidarity is an important factor of success which guarantees to each country genuine independence and freedom and the possibility to progress along the path of its own choice.

Proceeding from the principle that the liberation of Cambodia is the work of the Khmer people, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam declares its total support for the five-point proclamation of March 23, 1970 of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, firm support for the struggle waged by the Khmer people under the leadership of their Head of State Norodom Sihanouk against the US imperialists and their henchmen, for the defence of their sacred national rights. In the spirit of mutual respect, solidarity and mutual assistance, the Vietnamese people will wholeheartedly support the legitimate effort of the Khmer people until its final success.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is firmly convinced that peace- and freedom-loving governments in the world will most deeply sympathize with, and vigorously uphold, the just cause of the Khmer people now struggling to defend their national interests and peace in this part of the world.

The Khmer people, possessed of a glorious history and a most brilliant civilisation, are also endowed with a tradition of indomitable struggle against US imperialism. The Vietnamese people who have dealt hard blows at the US imperialists and the Saigon puppets, will firmly persevere in, and step up, their resistance against US aggression. They will surely achieve total victory, the liberation of the South, preservation of the North and ultimate peaceful national reunification. The Lao people have won resounding successes and inflicted a new reverse on the "special war" of the US imperialists. All this constitutes a powerful inspiration for the fraternal people of Cambodia. The more the US imperialists intensify and expand the war and the more perfidious manoeuvres they resort to to divide the Indochinese peoples, the tighter the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples will close their ranks and the stronger will be their determination to fight and defeat them, and the more vigorous the support accorded by the world peoples, including the American people, to the certainly victorious struggle of the Indochinese peoples. The coup d'etat of March 18, 1970 in Cambodia can in no way save the US imperialists, but will on the contrary make them sink deeper in the quagmire of a still more disastrous failure.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are deeply convinced that all sections of the Khmer people, responding to the sacred appeal for national salvation launched by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, will heroically surmount all difficulties and keep up their effort.

The just cause of the Khmer pe ple will gloriously carry the day !

Hanoi, March 25, 1970

LAO LEADER SUPPORTS NORODOM SIHANOUK

PRINCE Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, sent on March 22 a message to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in connection with the March 18 coup d'état in Phnom Penh. The message reads *inter alia* :

"On behalf of the Lao Patriotic Front and the Lao people, I wish to tell Samdech and the Khmer people how deeply indignant we felt at the adventurist move of the US-paid extreme-rightist group in Phnom Penh.

"I assure Samdech of the friendship and the indefectible militant solidarity of the Lao people for the fraternal Khmer people in the struggle against our common enemy, the US imperialist aggressors.

"The Lao Patriotic Front unreservedly supports the effort of Samdech and the Khmer people to overthrow the US-paid extreme-rightist group, to defend the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, announced in your March 20, 1970 statement."

FACTS AND EVENTS (FROM 1954 TO 1969)

September 8, 1954: The US-manipulated SEATO aggressive bloc set up in Manilla declares that it puts Cambodia under its "umbrella." Three years later, at its third meeting in Canberra, the USA and this bloc devise a plan to entice Cambodia into joining the bloc. In 1960, the SEATO organizes a naval exercise off Cambodia's sea-coast to intimidate her. Nevertheless, she resolutely refuses to be associated with this bloc.

February and March 1956: The Saigon puppets and the reactionary Bangkok authorities, abetted by the Yankees, give orders to seal off their borders and blockade Cambodia, thus hindering her shipping and unfavourably influencing her foreign trade balance.

June 1958: By orders of the US, the Ngo Dinh Diem administration sends regular troops supported by aircraft and motorized units 15 kilometres deep into Cambodia's territory, in Stung Streng province, and move her landmarks 3 km behind with a view to encroaching on her territory.

Early 1959: The Yankees convene a meeting in Bangkok to overthrow the Cambodian government. Present at the meeting are the Khmer reactionaries : Sam Sary (ex-Cambodian ambassador to Great Britain), Dap Chuon, Son Ngoc Thanh, a Thai general and representatives of the puppet Saigon administration.

Sam Sary sets up an opposition party against Head of State Sihanouk's policies ; they carry out such activities as blackmail, kidnapping and division among the Khmer people. Dap Chuon who commands the Royal Army in Siemreap province is directly guided in the preparation for an armed rebellion by such US politicians and generals as Admiral Harry Felt, General Collins, Colonel Landsdale, Admiral Hopwoon and Victor Matsui, an official of the US Embassy. When their scheme was discovered in Feb. 1959, Sam Sary fled and took refuge in Saigon and Dap Chuon was shot dead.

After this failure, the Yankees grant Sam Sary and Son Ngoc Thanh an aid of 1.2 million dollars to rig up a reactionary organization, called "Khmer Serei (Free Khmers) Committee" and set up "Khmer Serei" forces which are smuggled into Cambodia for sabotage activities.

August 31, 1959 : US-paid agents stage attempt upon Cambodia's king and queen's life by sneaking into the Royal Palace a bomb camouflaged as a "gift" to the queen. The bomb explodes but the royal couple escapes unscathed.

1960: The US eggs Ngo Dinh Diem on to bring pressure to bear on Cambodia by claiming the return to the Saigon administration of five islets along the Cambodian sea-coast and landing troops on it. When the attempt fizzles out, they begin blockading, provoking Cambodia and harassing her borderland.

May 1963: US agents in Taiwan and South Viet Nam attempt the lives of Queen Kossamak and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk on the occasion of People's China Chairman Liu Shao-chi's visit to Cambodia. Cambodian traitors work hand in glove with foreign spies in this plot, using noiseless guns and explosive charges laid on the road from Pachentong airfield to the Royal Palace. It has been discovered before the guests arrive.

July 26, 1963 : From Hongkong s.s. Tai Poo Hong ships to Cambodia five kegs of explosive sent from Okinawa to the US Embassy in Phnom Penh. The explosive can send 5-metre high flames and emit a heat capable of melting metals and destroying buildings and safes.

August 27, 1964: Four "Khmer Serei" who tried to assassinate Samdech Norodom Sihanouk at Mimot are arrested.

December 21, 1965 : — Marshall Wright, spokesman of the US Department, acknowledges that US troops in South Viet Nam have received orders to cross Cambodian border in "hot pursuit" of hostile elements for "self defence."

– According to statements made by the Cambodian government, US-puppet troops in South Viet Nam have 374 times violated Cambodian territory (25 land attacks, 49 shellings, 213 border intrusions, 75 air strikes), 22 people have been killed, 50 wounded, 15 reported missing, civilian property looted or destroyed. Major cases are repeated air bombings of Anlong Kress village, and a company-size attack on Doeum Por village (August 18, 1965).

April 1966 : Thai troops assault Preah Vihear temple on Cambodian borderland. It is to be recalled that Thailand started that long quarrel in 1954 to bully Cambodia. This violation of territory failed in 1962 and the Preah Vihear temple was internationally recognized as belonging to Cambodia.

September 20, 1966: At a press conference, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk reveals that US-made mines have been planted by Thai troops on 100 km along Cambodian border, posing a great threat to the Kingdom.

April 1967 : The South Viet Nam NFL, the socialist countries and a number of nationalist countries declare recognition and respect of the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within her present borders. But US satellites refuse to do so. On June 21, 1967, Praphas Charusathien, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of Thailand, and on July 10, 1967 Nguyen Cao Ky, declare that they will never recognize Cambodia's present borders.

November 1968: Mendel Rivers, Chairman of the Armed Forces Committee of the US House of Representatives urges the US to send its warships into Cambodian territorial waters.

From 1962 to May 1969 : US, Saigon and Thai armed forces intrude into Cambodian territory or waters over 7,000 times (1,864 land attacks, 165 sea raids and 5,149 air strikes), causing 293 people killed and 690 wounded, and damage to civilian property and domestic animals. (White Book of the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Cambodia).

TROUBLED SPRINGS IN THE U.S.

It seems that a new tradition has been established in the US: when spring comes, millions of citizens pour into the streets of the federal capital and other cities, not to admire vernal flowers, but to protest against the Viet Nam war.

Spring 1965: "March for Peace" in Washington attended by 25,000 people; Spring 1967: demonstration of 500,000 Americans in New York, San Francisco and other American cities; Spring 1968: rallies held by nearly one million students and youth in thirty states under the slogan: "Bring all the GIs home now."

FROM THE "16-SIGNATORY LETTER" TO "VIET NAM MORATORIUM"

In 1962, President Kennedy's bellicose Viet Nam policy elicited from progressive intellectuals an open letter published on April 16 in the *New York Times*: "We wish to ask you why at present the US is sending its Army, Navy and Air Force to bring death and bloodshed to South Viet Nam, a small Asian country approximately 10,000 miles from our Pacific Coast." In March 1963, 62 American intellectuals warned again Kennedy: "The number of Americans killed and wounded steadily grows. South Viet Nam could become America's Algeria." Dr B. Spock, the famous pediatrician, said at a press conference in Boston that US intelligentsia had declared that this war was immoral and illegal in every respect and it was a shame to find that the US was the most disgraceful State in history, second only to Hitler's Germany.

It was not till 1965 when the US authorities decided to send to South Viet Nam a US expeditionary force and bombard North Viet Nam, that the Americans, chiefly students and youths, began to grow alive to the Viet Nam problem. It was the "Youth Against War and Fascism" (YAWF) which had the initiative to stage the first demonstration (in 1965) against the Viet Nam war. Since then the American youth have become the shock brigade in marches for peace, meetings and protest parades. Last year in New York, four-fifths of the demonstrators were under thirty. The same phenomenon was observed in other cities.

American youths condemn the Viet Nam war as immoral, illegal and criminal and adverse to their interests. The Three at Fort Hood (Dennis Mors, James Johnson, David Samas) detained for refusing to go to Viet Nam had this to tell the Soviet agency (APN) correspondent: "Firstly that country (Viet Nam) has never attacked or threatened ours. The Viet Nam war is a US aggression just like Hitlerite fascists' aggression in the past. Secondly, in waging this war, the Johnson administration has violated the Constitution of the US. According to our Constitution, only Congress is empowered to declare war. But the US Congress has never declared war on Viet Nam. Furthermore in waging this war the US government has violated the UN Charter and the principles laid down by the Nuremberg Tribunal."

According to the three young men, most of the students and GIs as well as their kith and kin have supported them since the beginning because they are aware that "the Vietnamese do not want our presence in Viet Nam" and that "we have no right to interfere in Viet Nam's internal affairs."

"To hell? No, we'll not go," "Withdraw US troops from Viet Nam now," such were the American youths' slogans. They resounded in the streets during the marches and demonstrations, shook the formerly so quiet universities and reverberated to army barracks.

The anti-Viet Nam war movement has spread to the black people's ghettos. The Afro-Americans are "better than anyone else in a position to question the war — not because they understand it better but because they understand the US". (Robert Parris, SNCC activist). The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party declared, "No one has a right to ask us to risk our lives and kill other colour people in Santo Domingo and Viet Nam." The black people in the US are conscious that nothing can be done to combat misery in the ghettos so long as the White House squanders billions of dollars in Viet Nam. "Johnson's 'great society' is dead on the Viet Nam battlefield" (Martin Luther King).

"Work!", "Improve living conditions!", "Immediate and unconditional withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam." "In Viet Nam and Watts it is the same struggle," such have been the slogans put up by the Afro-Americans. Many of their organizations such as the "Black Panther" have a double aim: to emancipate the black people and end the Viet Nam war.

The conscience of women, religious circles, ex-servicemen, workers, businessmen, that is of representatives of broad sections of the people, revolts vigorously against the Viet Nam war, a revolt which has been given a fresh impulse under the Nixon administration. The new master of the White House has in fact made empty promises and the war is going on. "Viet Nam Moratoriums" have been organized by millions of people from all walks of life

AN ACTIVE MAJORITY

NIXON affirmed that only a noisy minority was opposed to his policy of aggression which was backed by a silent majority of Americans. However, when the administration tried in November last to stage in Washington a demonstration in favour of the war, it obtained poor results. Meanwhile, millions of Americans marched against death in Washington and 1,200 cities and towns throughout the country. Workers, students, soldiers, ex-servicemen, researchers, writers, doctors, clergymen, housekeepers, businessmen and even financiers took to the streets for an immediate end to the Viet Nam war. Their action was supported by TUs of 5 million workers. Hundreds of cars packed with workers rushed from New York to Washington to take part in the marches. In Chicago, 22,000 workers demonstrated under the slogan: "Bring GIs home just now!" which testified to the growing magnitude of the movement.

At meetings held in New York, Washington and other cities, prominent figures took the floor: Dr Benjamin Spock, Mr George Wald, Nobel prize of biology, Mr Harold Gibbons, Vice-President of lorry builders' TU (1,750,000 members), Black leaders Ralph Abernathy and Mrs Coretta King, Senators Charles Goodell (New York), George McGovern

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Japanese demonstrate for withdrawal of American B.52s from Okinawa

More Thailand Mercenaries for Laos

A DANGEROUS U.S. WAR ESCALATION

THE DRVN Foreign Ministry issued on March 22 a statement the main part of which reads:

"After having secretly introduced about 5,000 Thailand mercenary troops into Laos since the middle of 1969, according to Vientiane reports on March 20, 1970 the US openly sent to Laos two more battalions of Thailand regular troops to serve its aggression in Laos. These units were airlifted by US planes to the American base in Longcheng illegally built in the Lao liberated zone—as reinforcements to the US-commanded 'special forces' of Vang Pao to step up encroaching attacks on the areas controlled by the Lao patriotic forces. Besides, many other Thailand battalions have been ordered to get ready to enter Laos.

"It should be recalled that in the recent past, many personalities in the Nixon administration have been clamouring for the intensification of the war in Laos. On March 17, 1970 US State Secretary W. Rogers envisaged eventual commitment of US combat troops to Laos; on March 19, 1970 US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird stressed that the US would continue bombing the Lao territory.

"Under the pressure of public opinion in the United States and the world, President Nixon on March 21, 1970 had to admit that Thailand was involved in military activities in Laos, but he still obdurately refused to admit that the US was using Thailand troops in the war in Laos.

"The above bellicose statements of the US ruling personalities, together with increased US bombings of Laos' territory, the use of lackey troops for repeated encroachments on the Lao liberated zone and the open dispatch of additional Thailand regular troops for aggression against Laos, show that the Nixon administration is taking a new, extremely dangerous step of war escalation in Laos, thus directly threatening peace and security in Indochina, South-East Asia and the rest of the world.

"The sending of additional Thailand mercenary troops by the US for aggression against Laos spells out that despite its heavy failures in Viet Nam and Laos, the US is feverishly carrying out 'Nixon's doctrine' of using Asians to fight Asians for the selfish interests of the American warmongering circles."

(South Dakota), Congressmen Philip Burton and James Scheuer, ex-Senators Wayne Morse and Ernest Gruening, writers Joseph Heller and Norman Mailer, film stars Paul Newman, Alwin Arlain, Shirley Mac Laine, etc. David Shoup, ex-commander-in-chief of the "Marines," John Kenneth Galbraith, ex-ambassador Edwin Reischauer, and John Lindsay, mayor of New York, also backed these actions.

In the meantime, despite the obstruction caused by Nixon's followers in the House of Representatives, 200 congressmen held a prolonged debate condemning Nixon's war policy and calling for a quick withdrawal of US troops. In Saigon where all anti-war demonstrations were banned, fifty American civil servants called at the US Embassy to protest the war. They wrote to Nixon: "At the moment when millions of Americans are expressing today their opposition to the war in Viet Nam, we want to join our voices to theirs. We are aware of the sufferings of the Vietnamese people. We declare that this war must be ended. We demand immediate withdrawal of all US troops."

In response to the US government policy of "Vietnamization" of the war and gradual withdrawal of troops the demonstrators chanted: "End immediately the Viet Nam war!", "Bring all the GIs home now!". One of the demonstrators who had his only son killed in Viet Nam, wrote to the American Congress to urge repatriation of all American boys not in 1970 or in 1971 but right now.

The American press listed over thirty forms of action. To condemn Nixon, there were not only teach-ins, meetings and marches but vigils, symbolic corpses lying in state, black armband wearing, prayer saying, flags flown half-mast, etc. Particularly moving was the "March Against Death," during which the names of 40,000 GIs killed in Viet Nam were read in front of the White House. Coffins were laid in the Congress building with plaques bearing names of dead GIs. Canvassers went round to explain the reason of the struggle and call on people to oppose the war.

FULL OF SACRIFICES

THE reaction of the US government was not late in coming. The police and even the army were put on the alert. "Mace" asphyxiating gas and "tear" gas, bludgeons and carbines, even tanks and helicopters were used against the movement. Public squares, universities, recruiting offices were the sites of clashes between policemen and demonstrators. Protesters were bludgeoned or shot; young girls were dragged by the hair into police vans.

Thousands of demonstrators were apprehended. Many were killed by policemen in tussles. Movement leaders were prosecuted for "incitement to riots" and illegally condemned to long prison terms.

Under the Nixon regime, repression has been stepped up: 9,000 especially trained soldiers were rushed to Washington already garrisoned by thousands of troops and two thousand policemen. Well-armed "marines" were planted in the Capitol and three hundred soldiers with fixed bayonets broke into the lobbies of the Department of Justice. Since Nixon's coming to power John Mitchell, his attorney general, has set his machinery in motion and asked for the enforcement of "anti-riot" clauses amended to the Civic Rights Act signed by Johnson in 1968. By virtue of these stipulations, eight men were arrested in Chicago for riot incitement. One of them, Mr. Bobby Seale, was beaten, tied up and gagged during many sittings and was unable to defend himself against police-spies' slanders. Justice Julius J. Hoffman sentenced Seale to 4 years' imprisonment for so-called "contempt of court" and jailed him in San Francisco, California. But the affair is not yet over. US "justice" announced that on April 23 next, Seale would have to answer for involvement in a police informer's death.

US "justice" has also resorted to high-handed methods against other accused people and even defence lawyers. On Feb. 14 and 15 last, the Chicago court sentenced seven accused people and their lawyers to prison terms varying between 6 and 30 months for "contempt of court." In one of these sittings, William M. Kunstler, a lawyer, said that he was ashamed to be a North American jurist. In this respect Nixon has done what the Johnson administration did not dare to do.

While "justice" is in action, other measures have been taken: police assaults against demonstrators, round-ups, massive arrests, threats, etc. Democrat Senator H. Hughes pointed out that the US was experiencing a period of persecution reminiscent of McCarthysm. Dr B. Spock recently wrote in a book that the US had become a police State. But repression only invites stronger protest. The events in the last fall and the big demonstrations at the beginning of this year against the Chicago law suit and conscription bear witness to this.

SPRING 1970

IN the spring this year a powerful wave of protest was touched off by the Chicago case, and compelled the Nixon administration to release the seven leaders of the movement. Demonstrations were then held against draft. The Spring mobilization campaign launched by the National Conference of Anti-War Organizations held at Cleveland (Ohio) n last February will reach its climax on April 15. Despite all government threats, preparations are now underway.

Alerted, policemen prepare their weapons and jerry cans of gas. Spring 1970 will be a troubled one.

April 15, 1970 is the time-limit set by Nixon for the third stage of gradual withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam. On that day, the peace fighters will demonstrate throughout the country under the slogan "End US Involvement in Viet Nam, Give the Vietnamese People the Chance of Deciding Themselves Their Own Destiny."

The US Reservists' Committee to Stop the War has recently declared: "We demand total withdrawal of all our fellow American soldiers from Viet Nam now. Not just combat troops, not just ground forces, but all troops."

At a recent 15,000-strong demonstration in New York, Senator H. Hughes said that Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy was in fact the perpetuation of the war and Mr. Rosalio Munoz, one of the organizers of the demonstration of Americans of Mexican origin at Los Angeles, last month pointed out that "an immediate halt to the US war of aggression is the first requisite to deliver the oppressed in Viet Nam as well as in the US from sufferings."

There is not a shadow of a doubt that the Nixon administration will know no internal peace so long as the Viet Nam war goes on.

60th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (March 26, 1970)

THE U.S. IS SPILLING THE WAR TO THE WHOLE INDOCHINESE PENINSULA

Says DRVN Negotiator

MR. Nguyen Minh Vy, representing the DRVN Government Delegation at the 60th session of the Paris Conference, devoted the major part of his speech to an analysis of the situation and to show that the US is attempting to spill the war to the whole Indochinese peninsula.

Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy said the recent events in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia clearly indicated that the Nixon administration really did not want a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem. While declaring its desire for peace in Viet Nam, it is in fact stepping up and prolonging the war. While asserting that there are "no more new Viet Nams," it is in fact generating other Viet Nams in Laos and Cambodia. While claiming that it approves an independent and neutral Laos and Cambodia, in fact it is encroaching upon the independence and neutrality of these two countries. While urging serious and flexible negotiations, it is, in fact, displaying utter stubbornness and wickedness.

"The more the Nixon administration intensifies and expands the war," the DRVN Delegation spokesman stressed, "the more it tries to divide among the Indochinese peoples, these will strengthen their solidarity and resolutely foil all US designs of aggressive war. The world peoples including the Americans will increase their support to the certainly victorious struggle of the Indochinese peoples."

Workers and Students on Strike in Saigon

SAIGON is in the throes of a widespread student and labour unrest, *GPA* reported.

Since March 21, 7,600 workers and employees at the US RMK-BMJ firm have been striking for wagelift and medical relief. They demanded that 300 of their mates who had lost their job as a result of the closing down of a construction site near Saigon be given employment. An urgent meeting of representatives from 6 construction sites was called to protest the employers' move.

Two days later, 6,000 students of the Saigon Medical Faculty staged a three-day school boycott, in protest against the Saigon puppet administration's repression, and for the release of Huynh Tan Man, Acting Chairman of the Saigon Students' General Association.

In addition, more than 10,000 students of the polytechnics, normal and agriculture faculties in Saigon refused to attend lectures in sympathy whith the medical students' action.

On March 25, 12,000 students of the Faculty of Letters also went on strike, thus raising the number of students on strike to 30,000.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST "PACIFICATION"

UNDER the "Vietnamisation" program, the strength and fighting will of the people is to be broken with a view to maintaining the neo-colonialist regime. That is the goal of "pacification." To this end, the Americans and the puppets plan to spot, destroy and disrupt the revolutionary forces, then to subjugate the population and set up a reactionary power.

With the help of spies recruited on the spot or brought under disguise into the area to "pacify," they try to gather intelligence on revolutionary organizations, the structure of the people's power, cadres, personalities known for their democratic and anti-imperialist views. If the opportunity comes, specialized thugs mount a "Phoenix" operation to liquidate those regarded as the most dangerous. These agents also carry out psywar activities to sow doubt and confusion among the population and shake their loyalty to the Resistance.

On the strength of information collected on the local revolutionary forces, a plan of "pacification" is drafted. It consists of a purely military action for which regular troops, regional troops (or "security forces") and auxiliary corps (militia, guard or "people's defence" units) will be deployed. With regard to the "tough" areas, not only the force involved is bigger, but US troops and puppet specialized units (Marines, Paras, Rangers, field police) as well as the air, artillery and naval forces also take part in the "pacification." A special command is set up to direct the operation, which is a real military and police campaign staged against the civilians. To deceive public opinion, an "economic, cultural and social project" is worked out but it does not go beyond the building of a footbridge, an elementary school, a well or an infirmary. A "pacification team" is entrusted with the destruction of the "VC infrastructure" and the installation of a puppet administration, as well as of reactionary propaganda. Its members, about fifty, are handpicked from the cream of the reaction, hired murderers and tortioners.

IN the regions where the enemy had mustered his operational array, the people resist "pacification" with legal and semi-legal political actions as well as with a patient campaign of explanation and agitation among the adversary troops. It is a harsh, multiform, protracted and arduous effort in which the people fight inch by inch with the enemy and repel him step by step before achieving final victory. Now they wipe out whole "pacification" forces, now they just sabotage from within what they cannot temporarily prevent the enemy from doing. Thus often US-puppet "successful sweeps" suddenly fizzle out

However, the revolutionary forces usually strike at "pacification" operations right in their initial stages to "nip them in the bud."

Heavy losses are inflicted upon the **enemy military forces which are going to act as spearheads.** For instance, at the end of 1969 and beginning of 1970, the puppet marines were sent to the provinces of the Mekong Delta, particularly in Ben Tre and Rach Gia to provide cover for two great "pacification" campaigns. The PLAF chose the best time and place to pounce upon them. Thus, in Vinh Hoa village, 200 kilometres southwest of Saigon, along the Xeo Ro canal, as well as in Giong Trom and Mo Cay, 60 and 80 kilometres south of Saigon (Ben Tre province), the revolutionary forces put out of action 2,500 marines. Once the spearhead blunted, the campaigns petered out.

The **CPs and operational bases** of the reactionary forces are also choice targets. Such objectives were hit by the PLAF in Xeo Ro where a brigade HQ was erased, in Cam Zoi (north of Da Nang) when a battalion CP was written off, in Ba Xoai (Chau Doc province, 180 kilometres west of Saigon) where a "special forces" camp was completely struck off the charge.

To attack the enemy forces before they are deployed also constitutes a very rewarding method. In My Tho, Ben Tre and Can Tho provinces in the Mekong Delta, where the maze of arroyos and rivers makes impossible a troop deployment without a considerable naval flotilla, the patriots have set up "vessel-hunter" groups. The latter's destructive action often puts the enemy in a fix. Thus, in two successive engagements (on January 25 and 29, 1970), they sank or set afire 12 vessels and two barges and destroyed a floating bridge on the Ham Luong river, helping to baffle a «pacification» operation in Ben Tre.

Besides damaging adverse military forces, the revolutionary force also **strike at the organizations specialized in this field.**

Spies and "Phoenix" teams are put out of action. The tracking of these agents is not a difficult job because it is done by the people themselves. People's councils judge each criminal and mete out punishments. Verdicts range from warnings to prison terms and death sentences, thus neutralizing thousands of these harmful agents.

The "**pacification teams**" also constitute a major objective of the revolutionary forces, especially when they are regrouped in the formation centres. One of those centres lies in Vung Tau, about sixty kilometres southeast of Saigon. On the night of January 3, 1970, a violent PLAF attack resulted in 200 casualties among the "pacification" cadres there. Another raid in Tung Nghia, near Dalat on the Highlands, put out of action about one hundred others.

CPs of military subsectors and sectors as well as "militia" posts often constitute staging places for "pacification" agents before their deployment. Well-mounted assaults against them at the right moment have been able to prevent planned operations. Thus, at Lam An Phu in Chau Doc province on January 18 and 20, 1970, two "pacification" teams were completely knocked out.

Finally, the destruction of **enemy operational HQs** deprives the "pacification" operation of its direction and coordination organ. Thus, in Tra Vinh province, Operation "Cuu Long" (Mekong) was recently foiled: 300 adverse troops were put out of action including a group of US "advisers," two regiments of regulars, one battalion of "security" forces and one brigade of "Rangers."

Soldiers of the puppet army captured by PLAF

LIBRARY

THE struggle against "pacification" is no picnic. The revolutionary forces have to consolidate the liberated areas in all fields, and make them a secure and well-organized combat zone. Once this consolidation done, they strike continuously at the bases and springboards where "pacification" operations are mounted. In coordination with the regional popular forces and the masses' political actions, they put out of action important enemy forces or drive them onto the defensive and thwart their attempts to encroach on the liberated areas. The flop of "pacification," one of the components of "Vietnamisation," is a foregone conclusion.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

MEKONG DELTA

Rach Gia: 1 enemy battalion and 2 companies wiped out, 1 puppet battalion and 2 companies decimated (March 12 and 17).

Kim Tuong: 3 puppet companies put out of action, 8 aircraft downed, 5 military vehicles destroyed (March 8 and 9).

Ben Tre: 1,200 adverse troops disabled (March 1 to 10).

Ca Mau: 2 puppet companies knocked out (March 11).

An Giang: 200 enemy casualties, 11 armoured vehicles wrecked (March 19 to 22).

WESTERN HIGH PLATEAUX

Tuyen Duc: 2 puppet companies written off, 11 military vehicles destroyed (March 4).

Lam Dong: 1 puppet company mown down (March 4).

Gia Lai: 41 military vehicles destroyed on Highway No 19 (March 15 to 17).

THUA THIEN

PLAF control Hill 550, 55km northwest of Hue (night of March 19).

SAIGON AREA

Phuoc Long: 1 puppet para company decimated (March 16).

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